

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for receiving facsimiles in a multi-function printer device, said method comprising:
 - detecting, by said multi-function printer device, an incoming phone call;
 - monitoring, by said multi-function printer device, said incoming phone call for a facsimile tone while said incoming call is answered;
 - continuing to monitor, by said multi-function printer device, said incoming phone call for a facsimile tone after said incoming call is answered;
 - allowing, by said multi-function printer device, said incoming call to proceed when no facsimile tone is detected; and
 - initializing said multi-function printer device to receive an incoming facsimile transmission in response to said facsimile tone being detected.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - disconnecting said incoming call from a connected communication device by said multi-function printer device in response to detecting said facsimile tone.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - continuing to monitor said incoming call, by said multi-function printer device, for a facsimile tone after allowing said incoming call to proceed.
4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - monitoring said incoming call by said multi-function printer device for sound; and
 - initializing said multi-function printer device to receive an incoming facsimile transmission in response to no sound being detected during said monitoring said incoming call for sound.
5. The method of claim 1 further comprising storing said facsimile in memory of a general purpose processor based device connected to said multi-function printer device.

6. A multi-function printer device comprising:
 - means for printing media;
 - means for optically scanning media;
 - means for sending and receiving facsimiles;
 - means for monitoring an incoming phone call for a facsimile tone from said incoming call being answered during said incoming call; and
 - means for initializing the facsimile means to receive an incoming facsimile transmission in response to said monitoring means detecting a facsimile tone.
7. The multi-function printer device of claim 6 wherein said monitoring means comprises means for monitoring said incoming call for an initial period after said incoming call is answered.
8. The multi-function printer device of claim 6 wherein said monitoring means comprises means for continuing to monitor said incoming call for a facsimile tone throughout said incoming call.
9. The multi-function printer device of claim 6 further comprising means for initializing the facsimile means to receive an incoming facsimile transmission in response to no sound being detected by said monitoring means during recording of an incoming message.
10. The multi-function printer device of claim 6 further comprising means for interfacing with a general purpose processor-based device and wherein said device is a stand-alone device adapted to employ the facsimile means independent of a connection to said general purpose processor-based device.
11. The multi-function printer device of claim 6 further comprising means for wirelessly interfacing with a network.
12. The multi-function printer device of claim 6 further comprising means for wirelessly interfacing with a general purpose processor-based device.
13. The multi-function printer device of claim 6 further comprising means for receiving at least one memory device and means for downloading received faxes to said memory device.

14. The multi-function printer device of claim 6 wherein said scanning means comprises a flatbed optical scanner.

15. The multi-function printer device of claim 6 wherein said scanning means comprises a sheet-feed optical scanner.

16. The multi-function printer device of claim 6 wherein said scanning means comprises a picture frame scanner.

17. The multi-function printer device of claim 6 further comprising:
means for copying media as a combination of said printing means and said scanning means.

18. A system for automatically detecting incoming fax transmissions by a fax-capable multi-function printer device and routing a call according to a type of said call, said system comprising:

a multi-function printer device comprising:

a printer;

an optical scanner;

a call monitor; and

a facsimile functionality;

wherein said multi-function printer device monitors answered incoming phone calls to internally intercept incoming facsimile transmissions and initialize said facsimile functionality to receive said incoming facsimile transmissions; and

a general purpose processor-based device selectively interfaced with said multi-function printer device and selectively powered.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein said facsimile functionality stores said incoming facsimiles to memory of said general purpose processor-based device.

20. The system of claim 18 wherein said general purpose processor-based device hosts a user interface adapted to receive user settings for said multi-function printer device.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein said user settings comprise a number of rings before said facsimile functionality answers an incoming call and initiates facsimile reception.

22. The system of claim 18 wherein said a multi-function printer device is a stand-alone device adapted to employ said facsimile functionality independent of said interface with said general purpose processor-based device.

23. The system of claim 18 wherein said multi-function printer device is a stand-alone device adapted to employ said facsimile functionality independent of a power status of said general purpose processor-based device.

24. The system of claim 18 wherein said multi-function printer device further comprises a wireless interface, interfacing said general purpose processor-based device with said multi-function printer device.